



**H**ispanic  
**T**echnology &  
**T**elecommunications  
**P**artnership

Supporting Policies which Ensure Access to Advanced Technologies by Underserved Communities

---

June 15, 2007

Chairman Kevin Martin

Commissioners Michael Copps

Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate

Commissioner Robert McDowell

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, SW

Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 07-52

Dear FCC Chairman and Commissioners:

Ten years ago, a group of leading Hispanic organizations formed the Hispanic Technology and Telecommunications Partnership (HTTP) to ensure that the needs and perspectives of the Hispanic community were included in policy debates regarding the Digital Divide. Since then, broadband technologies, and the accompanying telecommunications policy discussions, have evolved in ways we could not have imagined, but the gap between technology haves and have-nots continues to plague certain segments of our society.

While the gap is closing, members of the Hispanic community continue to lag behind other groups in their access to the Internet. Given the economic, educational and lifestyle benefits made possible by being "connected" to the Internet, we believe that expanding access to ensure that every American has the chance to spend time online should be one of nation's top priorities.

New technologies are expanding connectivity options, and are fostering increased competition in the telecom marketplace. This competition is helping to reduce the cost of broadband services to consumers, while also stimulating new deployment by network providers. We believe that policies that encourage competition between broadband providers will help a large segment of the Hispanic community gain access to the Internet and narrow the digital divide for all underserved communities.

By its very nature, competition also should lead to enhanced quality and a wider range of consumer options as broadband providers strive to outdo each other in speed, reliability and quality of their services.

**Hispanic Technology and  
Telecommunications  
Partnership**

1901 L Street, NW Suite 802  
Washington, DC 20036

T: (202) 223-3915

F: (202) 429-2223

E: [httponline@netzero.net](mailto:httponline@netzero.net)

---

# http://

## **H**ispanic **T**echnology & **T**elecommunications **P**artnership

Supporting Policies which Ensure Access to Advanced Technologies by Underserved Communities

---

As the FCC seeks to develop public policies that promote continued development of the Internet, new technologies, and other interactive technology-based services, we urge you to preserve the vibrant and competitive free market that presently exists for Internet services. New policies must encourage development, guard against disincentives for investment, encourage the development of new technologies, and protect consumers.

The FCC's policy statement on Internet principles has been widely embraced and provides a good policy platform for providers and consumers. Furthermore, we have seen no evidence that consumer choice, competition, and investment in the current marketplace has been negatively impacted as a result of the FCC's policy statement on broadband access to the Internet. Therefore, we believe that no compelling reason currently exists to establish new regulations in addition to the FCC's existing policy statement related to "net neutrality".

We appreciate the FCC's interest in our views and encourage the Commission to seek policies that promote investment, development of new technologies, and the expansion of broadband services. If this happens we will be well on our way to eliminating the digital divide for Hispanics and all underserved Americans.

Sincerely,



Manuel Mirabal  
Founder and Co-chair  
Hispanic Technology and Telecommunications Partnership